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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "It's a Matter of Temperature" - information from the U.S.  
Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils,  
and Agricultural Engineering.

If you're a lover of spring-flowering bulbs...like hyacinths, tulips, Paper-white narcissus, Chinese sacred-lily, and daffodils...you're probably setting out bulbs for next spring.

If so...you're on the right track...and maybe are in the market for a suggestion or two.

Horticulturists in the Department of Agriculture say that success with these requires that you start them early...and keep them in a cool place until the root system has developed well. 40° F. is not too cool for a beginning.

When the root system has developed...place them in a slightly warmer place until growth starts. Then give them a little more heat...a temperature of 50° to 60° is about warm enough.

The point is that if you keep them too warm...flower stems and leaves grow tall and weak...and require support.

If tulip bulbs are your hearts desire...remember not only to keep them cool...but also bury them deeply until the flower bud has pushed itself out of the bulb.

Then there's the question of whether bulbs will grow in water without soil. The authorities say yes if your bulbs are the Chinese sacred-lily, Paperwhite narcissus, or hyacinths. These may be grown in wide-mouthed bottles or jars...in which they just fit...or they may be supported in shallow dishes by stones or sand.

Remember to keep these cool at first too.

Finally...keep your bulbs in as much light as possible when they start to flower. And next spring...you can set your bulbs outside...as soon as danger of frost is past.

